

WINTER 2016 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine



2015

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THANK

a Donor

DAY





*Dr. Jim Henderson
1994
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni:

Isaac Newton, the great physicist and astronomer, said "If I have seen farther it is because I stood on the shoulders of giants." This sentiment is true for our university as we reflect on the long career and the tremendous accomplishments of my predecessor and friend, Dr. Randy Webb. As the university's longest-serving president, Dr. Webb influenced the lives of thousands of individuals, illustrated by the outpouring of love at his passing in November. He will be remembered as a man of leadership, intellect, humility, service and loyalty.

A new year provides opportunities to evaluate where we are and where we are going, both personally and in our work at Northwestern State. It is a time to set goals and adapt to the challenges we face in transforming our alma mater into the most innovative, inclusive, enriching, impactful university in the region. It will take focus and energy but we have already made progress in the right direction.

Tonia and I extend to you good wishes and for a healthy and prosperous 2016. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to advance Northwestern State to meet its full potential as the premier regional university. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.



*Drake Owens, 2004,
2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

My fellow alumni,

I begin 2016 with a sense of gratitude and optimism.

The last year was one of great change for me personally and professionally and one of tremendous growth at our alma mater, where progress in matters great and small combined to make us prouder than we have ever been to be part of the Northwestern State family. Our faculty and staff have pushed themselves harder than ever before to serve our students and our students have responded with demonstrated pride and appreciation. It is an inspiring environment in which to work.

I hope many of you will be able to join us for the third annual President's Command Performance, which has become a much-anticipated event to celebrate spring and recognize several outstanding individuals. You can read about that event on Page 3. There are several other events and reunions on the 2016 calendar that may also be of interest to you.

Here on campus, we have set many high goals for ourselves and our university. Now is the perfect time to reengage with NSU. There are endless opportunities for alumni and friends to get involved and stay connected to Northwestern State. Please let us know how we can help you do just that.

I would like to close by acknowledging the memory of my mentor and friend, Dr. Randy Webb. Like many of you, I knew Dr. Webb as leader who always had a kind and encouraging word and knew students by name. He will be greatly missed by the entire NSU family.

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2nd Vice President..... Caron Chester Coleman,
Natchitoches, 2000
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Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
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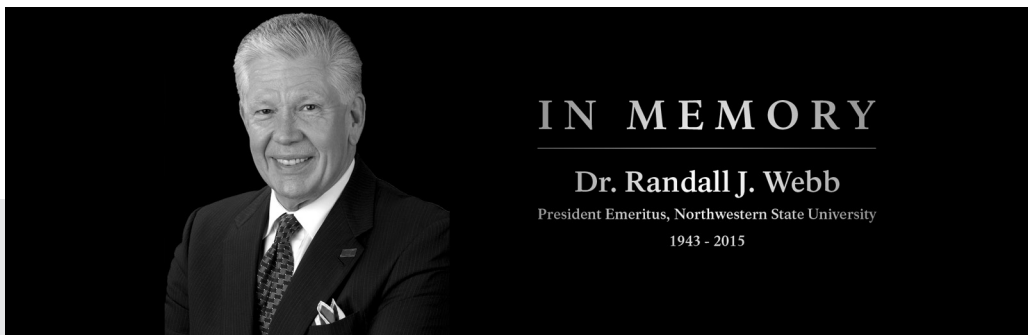
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Dr. Randall J. Webb, Northwestern State's longest-serving president, was remembered in tributes throughout the university, the Natchitoches community and the state for his service to others and especially to the university he loved after his passing Nov. 18, 2015.

Flags were lowered to half-staff on campus and in the city of Natchitoches on the day of Webb's service, Nov. 23, and the historic columns darkened in his memory. The Nov. 21 football game included a video tribute, special music, a spell-out by the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band and special decals on football helmets.

Webb's funeral service, held in Prather Coliseum, drew hundreds of friends and alumni to pay their respects to one called "a giant of men."

Students also gathered for a candlelight vigil at the Columns the day following Webb's passing.

"I think Dr. Webb's sincere attitude towards any and every student is something that has always made him stand out," said Student Government Association President Matthew Whitaker. "He had a warm personality that was contagious and you couldn't help but feel comfortable talking with him. He's influenced my college career by inspiring me to become a better leader within the NSU community."

Tributes to Webb on social media went viral as students, alumni, faculty and staff shared memories of Webb and offered sympathy to Mrs. Brenda Webb, their daughters, Tamara Gatewood and Lauren Simokaitis, and the rest of the Webb family.

"I have never known a person more passionate about his calling in life," said State Sen. Gerald Long, who spoke at Webb's service. "He was devoted to his school and was Northwestern State's most loyal supporter. The level of leadership he provided Northwestern State can never be measured."

During his 18 years as president, Webb oversaw dramatic growth in enrollment, the expansion and improvement of physical facilities and spearheaded NSU's development as the largest electronic education network in Louisiana. In May 2015, he was bestowed with the honor of President Emeritus during the Golden Jubilee celebrating the 50th anniversary of his graduation from NSU.

"Tonia and I and the entire Northwestern family of students, faculty, staff and alumni extend to Dr. Webb's wife Brenda, his daughters, grandchildren and other loved ones our heartfelt sympathy in this time of grief," said NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, who succeeded Webb as president on Jan. 1, 2015. "We also express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Webb's service, leadership and meaningful and beneficial influence on the university throughout his lifetime."

A 1965 graduate of Northwestern in mathematics and business education, Webb earned a master of science degree in mathematics from NSU in 1966. He received a doctorate in education from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1971 with a concentration in mathematics and research.

Webb was a member of the faculty of Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia, from 1966 until 1974. He served as Director of Higher Education and Teacher Certification in the Louisiana Department of Education from 1974 through 1976. He moved to Southeastern Louisiana University in 1976 and in 13 years there held positions as director of institutional research, EEO officer, registrar and member of the mathematics faculty.

He became Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies and professor of mathematics at Northwestern in 1989. In that position, he was responsible for campus-wide policy development, planning, advancement and review of both graduate and undergraduate programs. Among his other duties were chairing the steering committee for NSU's Self Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

He was active in the community as a member of the board of directors of the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society, Rotary Club and the First Baptist Church.

Jimmy Long of Natchitoches, a member of the University of Louisiana System that serves as Northwestern's governing board, said Webb guided Northwestern effectively and capably for nearly two decades, and his leadership enhanced and enriched the university.

"He was a successful president at Northwestern not just because of his experience and skills as a higher education administrator but also because of his deep love for the university and the long and close connection between NSU and so many members of the Webb family that graduated from the school through the years," Long said.

"Dr. Webb's legacy will be as a giant in the history of the university that he loved and as a prominent figure over two decades in state and national higher education circles," Henderson said.

Memorials can be made to the Dr. Randy Webb and Brenda Webb Endowed Scholarship Fund at NSU.

View candlelight vigil video at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewiM6DARgEw>

NSU gives thanks

Hundreds pause to pen handwritten notes to supporters

This past November, in the hectic weeks of the waning fall semester, Northwestern State students, student-athletes, coaches, faculty and staff paused to give thanks.

"I am the middle child of seven siblings with a single mother," said Amanda Simmons, a freshman from Haughton as she and her friends gathered around tables in the Alumni Plaza to pen thank you notes to individuals who contributed to the NSU Foundation and the Demons Unlimited Fund. "I worked really hard in high school and without those donations, I would not have been able to come to Northwestern. I am thankful to those who funded the scholarships I benefitted from."

Simmons, a pre-med major, was one of hundreds who participated in NSU's second annual Thank a Donor Day in which about 2,000 personal notes were written to alumni and friends to express appreciation for their support. Thanks were also delivered via phone calls and video messages and shared through social media.

"Thank a Donor Day encourages our students to think about the people behind the donations," said Haley Blount, assistant athletic director of development and marketing. "Last year, our donors responded to receiving hand-written notes in the mail with great appreciation. An alum called me to say he had never been personally thanked and, even though his contribution was small, it made a huge impact to get a thank you card from a student who benefitted from the contribution he made."

Organizers planned Thank a Donor Day 2015 on a perfect fall day in the Alumni Plaza, where students were provided with lunch and entertained with a photo booth and Larry's Group, a popular salsa ensemble of Colombian exchange students.



Allisson McCloud

"If it weren't for the support of our donors, I wouldn't be here," said Allison McCloud, a music education major and cellist from Pineville, who earned scholarships for orchestra, strings and voice en-

sembles, as well as an academic scholarship. She plans to be a worship leader. "Neither of my parents went to college and they told me all my life to make the grades so that scholarships would pay for my college education. The scholarships are the reason I'm here."



<https://vimeo.com/144913670>

"I added a major my senior year, which caused me to stay an extra year," said Tyler Price of New Orleans, who is pursuing degrees in musical theatre and hospitality management and tourism. "As a fifth year senior, I'm not eligible for TOPS, so I applied for any many scholarships as I could. I thank the donors because I won't be in debt."

"If it weren't for my scholarship, I wouldn't be able to further my dreams," said student-athlete Cade Jones of Conway, Arkansas.

Reid Van Bussum of Lexington, Kentucky, echoed those sentiments.

"I just wanted to say thank you for making tuition affordable for a student like me. Think of how many people wouldn't be here or would be in debt from student loans." Van Bussum is majoring in biology and hopes to become a physician's assistant.

Luke Rogers, assistant men's basketball coach who played at NSU from 2005-07, spoke from the perspective of both a player and a coach.

"A lot of people don't have any idea how much our athletes go through, so we want to let our donors know how much it means for them to have the resources and the tools they need," Rogers said.

"For many students, financial hardship is a challenging reality. We wanted to host an event to give students a way to let donors know how much their generosity means," said Vanner Erickson, associate director of Alumni Affairs. "It also goes beyond student support. The Foundation supports professorships and endowments and makes funds available for faculty research projects and professional development."

"I'm here to thank donors for the scholarships that allow these students to pursue their dreams," said Leslie Gruesbeck, professor of art. "It's a great opportunity for NSU students to say to alumni and donors: Thanks for your gift. We are all very grateful."

Third annual President's Command Performance March 18

Northwestern State University's Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice Estelle Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts will present the third annual President's Command Performance, a spring gala to celebrate the arts, on March 18, 2016. The President's Command Performance will honor select individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts and will be held in conjunction with ceremonies honoring 2016 inductees into Northwestern State's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line.

The President's Command Performance will begin with music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. in the Alumni Plaza in tandem with a silent

auction. The main performances, featuring musical ensembles, vocalists and dance performances, will take place in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Individuals inducted into the CAPA Hall of Fame are recommended and chosen based on their lifetime achievements and contributions to the life of the arts at NSU, Natchitoches, the region, the state, nationally and internationally.

Sponsorship opportunities for the President's Command Performance are available at the \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 levels. Individual tickets are \$65 per person and \$125 per couple in advance or can be purchased at the event for \$75 per person and \$150 per



couple. Program ads are also available for \$500, \$250 and \$100.

For tickets, sponsorship and program ad information, call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 or visit northwesternalumni.com.

Northwestern State University's **Theta Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity** will celebrate its 50th anniversary **April 8-9, 2016.**

For information or to register, visit <http://www.thetamu50.com/>. The website includes a schedule of events, costs and other pertinent information. Members can also update their contact information, which will be shared with the Office of Alumni Affairs.



Retirement Extravaganza planned to honor former choral director

The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State University will hold a Alumni Choral Reunion to honor Dr. Burt Allen January 15-17.

Allen retired last year after 31 years at Northwestern State. Alumni who were part of the choral program are invited to return to campus and be part of an alumni choir that will honor Allen at a special concert on Sunday, Jan. 17.

Preregistration is \$50 at capa.nsula.edu. Registration at the event is \$60. The fee covers the cost of a t-shirt and banquet on Saturday evening. A banquet ticket for spouses, friends or children is \$30.

The schedule includes a social event on Friday, Jan. 15. The choir will hold rehearsals on Saturday morning and afternoon. Alumni can attend social events Saturday evening. A final rehearsal will be on Sunday morning. The concert is at 3 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall with a reception to follow in the Orville Hanchey Gallery.

A block of rooms are being made available at the Fairfield Inn in Natchitoches. Rates along with additional details on the event will be announced as soon as they are determined.



School of Business recognizes alumni, retired faculty

Northwestern State University's College of Business and Technology honored several faculty, administrators and alumni as part of Homecoming festivities.

The College inducted four individuals into its Hall of Distinction. Andy Baragona, Theodore "Ted" Jones, David Meshell and Kevin Murphy were recognized for their professional achievements.

The School honored Dr. Austin Temple and Dr. Joel Worley as dean emeriti of the College of Business and Technology, Dr. Patricia N. Pierson as department head emerita of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Dr. Jack Pace as professor emeritus of the Department of Biology, Microbiology and Veterinary Technology and Dr. Walter Creighton as professor emeritus of the School of Business.

In addition, the School announced the Richard A. deVargas, Andres LaCaze and Dr. William Henry Pierson Endowed Professorship in Business. The professorship was made possible through a donation from Ellis and Juanita Coutee to the NSU Foundation.

Meshell is a 1999 NSU accounting graduate. He is employed by KPMG LLP as the tax managing director. Meshell has worked for KPMG LLP since 2000. He served in the United States Marine Corps for six years before enrolling at Northwestern. He lives in Houston.

Murphy is a 1982 NSU business administration graduate. He is a certified financial planner for Ameriprise in Shreveport. Murphy has more than 33 years of experience as a private wealth advisor and franchise consultant. He is licensed and registered to conduct business in Louisiana, Arkansas and California.

Jones is the Charles Ragus Family Endowed Chair at Northwestern State. He is a Baton Rouge attorney and lobbyist who has provided counsel to governors, U.S. senators and congressmen and presidential candidates. A graduate of Northwestern State, Jones has been honored by his alma mater with an honorary doctorate of humanities and induction into the Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line,



NSU's School of Business and Technology inducted four individuals into its Hall of Distinction. From left are David Meshell, Kevin Murphy and Ted Jones, who were recognized for their professional achievements. Not shown is Andy Baragona.

an honor given to just 115 alumni out of more than 90,000 alumni in NSU's 131-year history. He was a director of the NSU Foundation. In 2007, he was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

Baragona graduated from NSU in 2003 with a bachelor of science in computer information systems. He is a project manager with State Farm Insurance. Since graduating, Baragona has been actively involved in building the relationship between State Farm and Northwestern State. He has assisted more than 40 NSU students in receiving summer internships and full-time employment opportunities at State Farm in the last 12 years and assists them through informal mentoring relationships throughout their careers. Baragona has also aided the CIS program in receiving more than \$90,000 in State Farm grants in the past three years and serves as a member of the CIS Advisory Council. He lives in Heyworth, Illinois.

\$2.5 million LED grant targeted to grow CIS program

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) will provide Northwestern State University with \$2.5 million in grant funds over the next 10 years dedicated to producing more graduates in computer information systems to fill hundreds of expected jobs.

The cooperative endeavor agreement was developed to provide a trained workforce for CSC (NYSE: CSC), a global leader of next-generation technology services and solutions. CSC is establishing an Integrated Tech-

nology Center at the Cyber Research park in Bossier City.

Northwestern State will use the LED funds for recruiting, program development, faculty development and enhancements in program delivery and lab facilities in its CIS program.

Curtis Penrod, coordinator of NSU's CIS program, said he projects enrollment to grow to 500 CIS students over the next five years and expects to increase course offerings and enhance project-based learning for CIS students. Specified programs and

degrees may be modified to align with the needs of the company and developments in the industry. The agreement will create internship opportunities and increase the number of qualified candidates in the IT industry.

"We began enrolling last fall with the intent of graduating students who could be employed at CSC," Penrod said. "Our CIS curriculum aligns with the needs and developments in the industry. This creates great opportunity for our graduates to get quality jobs and stay in Louisiana."

Continued on page 5.



Several outstanding educators were inducted into Northwestern State University's Hall of Distinguished Educators during the university's Homecoming festivities. From left are Jimmy Berry, chair of the Alumni Advisory Board; Dr. Cade Brumley, April Giddens, Marvin Learohn Caldwell, Fred Fulton, Douglas McLaren, Sidney Harper representing Dr. Grady Harper, Stuart Bird, Anna Bernard and Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development.

Distinguished Educators, Outstanding Young Professionals honored

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development inducted new members into its Hall of Distinguished Educators during Homecoming 2015 festivities Saturday, Oct. 17.

Honorees were Anna Swafford Bernard of Baton Rouge, Stuart Bird of Bullard, Texas, Marvin Learohn Caldwell of Shreveport, Fred Fulton of Palestine, Texas, and Dr. Grady Harper and Douglas McLaren of Natchitoches. Those inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Educators must have graduated from Northwestern State at least

30 years prior to nomination.

This year, the College created a new honor, the Outstanding Young Professionals in Education Award. These honorees are Dr. Cade Brumley of Stonewall and April Giddens of Natchitoches. This award recognizes outstanding young professionals who made contributions in Pre-K through higher education or to the profession of education through teaching, research or community service. Nominees must be 40 years old or younger, have at least 10 years of meritorious service to education and gained

prominence in some areas of teaching, administrative achievement, contributions to research, leadership in professional associations, contributions to professional literature or outstanding community service.

Induction ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 in the auditorium of the Teacher Education Center on the NSU campus. Prior to the ceremony, a reception will begin at 9:30 a.m., which will include a reunion for education graduates from 1995 and 2005.

CIS program continued from page 4

The endeavor stipulates that Northwestern State will update and/or create articulation agreements with 2-year institutions in the region to enhance the ability of students to complete their bachelor's degrees in CIS after two years at a two-year institution. In response, NSU has developed memorandums of understanding with Bossier Parish Community College for students pursuing degrees in computer information systems.

Penrod said the CIS program is a good track for students with strong

math skills who can think logically.

"Computer information systems is about solving problems in an organization and making the organization work better," Penrod said. "We're not pure computer science because we lean towards teaching business concepts as well. Our graduates can talk to the computer scientists as well as business managers. Our CIS students learn how to program and use databases but they also learn the business side and because they have studied accounting, finance and economics they

can do a better job of understanding the needs of an organization."

"These economic and academic partnerships encourage us to be attentive to what companies want in preparing our graduates for careers in IT," Penrod said. "LED's investment in our programs illustrates the confidence they have in Northwestern State and our focus on supporting economic development in Louisiana."

For information on NSU's CIS program, contact Penrod at penrodc@nsula.edu.

Spotlights

Glynn Harris, long-time outdoor writer/broadcaster from Ruston received the prestigious Arthur Van Pelt Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual conference of the Louisiana Outdoor Writer's Association (LOWA) held in Morgan City.

"LOWA does not present the award very often but when it does, the recipient is certainly most deserving," said Chris Holmes, President of LOWA.

Harris has been a long-time member of LOWA, receiving his BS degree from Northwestern State University and graduate degree from Louisiana State University. He is married, has three daughters, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Harris began his outdoor writing career as a side-line in 1972 with articles in the Homer Guardian Journal. He currently writes for 10 newspapers and broadcasts four outdoor radio programs weekly on Ruston stations, KXKZ and ESPN earning more than 50 Excellence in Craft Awards from LOWA and the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA).

Trevor Davis (2014) was hired as the lead assistant for Blinn College's men's basketball program after stints at Northwestern State and Bossier Parish Community College. Davis was most recently a lead recruiter and strength and conditioning coach at BPCC after working as a graduate assistant at NSU.

Davis received his bachelor of arts in communication studies at Hamline University in 2012 and a master of science in health and human performance at NSU in 2015. Blinn College is located in Brenham, Texas.

NSU alum and researcher **Jason Raupp** led the dive team that discovered a large U.S. naval tanker in the waters off Hawaii last year. The vessel had been sitting unseen in 80 feet of water for nearly 60 years. The Mission San Miguel transported fuel to other ships before it sank during a trip from Guam to Seattle in 1957. The ship's crew escaped but the vessel was hidden by a reef until it was discovered.

As tanker in World War II and the Koran War, Mission San Miguel trans-

ported fuel for military machines. It received several commendations for its service.

Those familiar with the shipwreck thought that it would be found in one piece and it is largely intact with the steering wheel and helm standing. The Mission San Miguel is now in the protected waters of the Papahānaumokuākea monument. It will be mapped on the ocean floor.

"It was a really very, very exciting discovery for the monument," Raupp said. The crew also discovered an aircraft in the lagoon at Midway Atol National Wildlife Refuge at the Midway Islands northwest of Hawaii.

Amanda LaFollette, a secondary math teacher at Mansfield High School, was named a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is the highest award given by the United States Government to pk-12 math and science teachers to recognize teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning.

"It was very exciting to receive the word that I am a state finalist," said LaFollette. "To receive an award for something that I truly love doing every day is an added bonus."

LaFollette holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University – Shreveport and a master's from Northwestern State. She has spent her entire teaching career at Mansfield High School. In 2012, she earned national boards certification as a mathematics teacher.

At MHS and throughout the DeSoto Parish School System, LaFollette is recognized as a leader in effective mathematics instruction. She spends countless hours in preparation for her students and delivers exceptional instruction.

A History Channel documentary that aired in October was based on a book penned by NSU alum **David La Vere**. La Vere's book, "The Lost Rocks: The Dare Stones and the Unsolved Mystery of Sir Walter Raleigh's Lost Colony" was



Robert Caldwell Jr.

Researcher releases award-winning food culture book

Robert Caldwell Jr., researcher, scholar and American Indian leader, released a book detailing his knowledge of food and tribal customs. Caldwell graduated in 2011 with a Masters of Arts degree from Northwestern State University. Professor of Anthropology Hiram F. "Pete" Gregory and Professor of History Susan Dollar supervised his masters project-thesis, which was the basis for this book. Before attending NSU, Caldwell received bachelors of arts degrees in anthropology and history from the University of New Orleans. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in the Transatlantic History Program at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"Choctaw-Apache Foodways" is a landmark undertaking that gives the reader an inside perspective to the food culture of a community that is often overlooked by the rest of the world.

In October, Caldwell was recognized as a *Louisiana Tradition Bearer* by Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne for his work on the project.

The book is available at Stephen F. Austin State University Press and through Texas A&M Press/ Texas Book Consortium. This publication was made possible in part by a publications grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area.

Choctaw-Apache Foodways is also available online at Amazon.com and at Barnes and Noble.

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Tech educator, who with teammates built NSU's first website, retires

Craig Nansen retired in June 2015 after 44 years in education, the last 30 as director of technology for Minot, North Dakota, public schools. He continues to teach graduate courses for Minot State University in the education and mathematics departments. He is a Google Certified Teacher, a Google Apps Education Trainer, an Apple Distinguished Educator and a Discover Education Network (DEN) STAR. He notes that his advanced degrees from NSU were instrumental in being able to teach graduate courses.

"I enrolled in the summer ISGP (Intensive Summer Graduate Program) and attended NSU the summers of 1995 and 1996, earning my Masters of Education degree in 1996. I continued on at NSU taking online courses and summer courses to earn my Specialist degree in 1999. I have great memories of NSU, Natchitoches, fellow students and especially Dr. Bob Gillan and Dr. Frank Fuller," he recalled. "I especially remember how concerned classmates from Louisiana were about this guy from North Dakota would handle the hot summer. I had to go and buy sweatshirts because of how cold buildings were kept with the air conditioning."

Under Dr. Gillan, his advisor, he undertook a special project in 1995 and was one of the individuals, along with Rudy Hennigan, Ron Wright and Scott Mills, who contributed to the development of the prototype of the NSULA website.

"The World Wide Web was just becoming available to schools in 1995, and my Project in Lieu of Thesis was to learn to code in HTML and develop a 'Technology Coordinator's Resource Center' web site," Nansen said. "As a special project for Dr. Gillan, I developed the first prototype of a web site for NSU. In the summer of 1995 the World Wide Web was relatively new, and all the design had to be done using HTML coding. As I developed the initial pages for the site I received input from Dr. Gillan and several other students in the program. During the course of the summer I taught them HTML so that they could help with the development and continue working on it after the end of the summer session. Later that fall Rudy, along with several others, demonstrated the web site to the president, Dr. Allost."

Nansen earned his undergraduate degree in education at the Mathematics and Physics University of North Dakota in 1973 and he began his career as a math, science and computer programming teacher in the Minot Public Schools. During his long career, he was recognized with numerous awards related to education and technology, including being named an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2007, a distinction given to only 100 educators around the world. He was one of 10 Apple Distinguished Educators invited to be on the iWork development advisory team, initially meeting with the iWork Development Team in



Craig Nansen

Cupertino and then by video conference calls. He published a programming course used in the U.S. and internationally participates in technology conferences around the country.

Nansen and his wife, Sandra, continue to live in Minot. Their daughter, Kim, her husband Dustin, and three granddaughters, Madison, Makenna and Kiyah, live about five blocks from them. Their son, Ryan, his wife Melissa, and granddaughter Aubrie live in Colorado.

Local TV news covered the story of Nansen's retirement here:

<http://www.kfyrtv.com/news/regional/headlines/KFYR-Minot-Teacher-Retires-After-More-Than-40-Years-310802101.html>

Spotlights continued from page 6

published in 2011 and is available on Amazon.com.

"I was contacted in March 2015 by Left/Right Productions about them wanting to produce the docu-drama for the History Channel," La Vere said. "It was titled: 'Roanoke: Search for the Lost Colony.' I appeared on screen and as a historical advisor. It was a good experience."

La Vere graduated from NSU in 1982 with a double major in journalism and history. He returned to NSU to earn a

master's in history in 1989 and went to Texas A&M to complete his Ph.D. in history. He has been on faculty at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington since 1993.

News anchor **Farrah Reyna** joined the NBC affiliate WDSU New Orleans as a weekend anchor of WDSU News This Morning, the station announced in November.

Reyna is a native of Rosepine and a 2000 graduate of NSU. While at

Northwestern State, she was hired to help launch Natchitoches' independent KNTS-TV. She later moved on to KALB-TV in Alexandria, where she spent eight years, starting as a morning show producer and eventually becoming co-anchor of the 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts.

She also worked in marketing and public relations for the City of Natchitoches and the city's Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

External Affairs VP Jerry Pierce lauded for 50 years of service to NSU



NSU Athletic staff members and University President Dr. Jim Henderson gathered during the Nov. 7 football game to salute Vice President of External Affairs Jerry Pierce for passing the 50-year mark in service to his alma mater. Pierce was presented a No. 50 Demon football jersey by Athletic Director Greg Burke and Assistant AD for Development and Marketing Haley Blount. Others taking part in the pregame ceremony were Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Jacob Spielbauer, Head Soccer Coach George Van Linder, Assistant AD for Compliance Dustin Eubanks, Assistant AD for Sports Information Doug Ireland, Equipment Manager Dan Matthieson, Faculty Athletic Representative Jody Biscoe, Head Men's Basketball Coach Mike McConathy, Associate AD for External Affairs Adam Jonson, Athletic Business Manager Roxanne Freeman, Henderson and Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Jeff Moore. Pierce graduated from NSU in 1961 with a degree in journalism and after working as a sports writer, he returned to Natchitoches to dedicate his career to public relations at NSU.

1931 grad hits milestone birthday at 105

Earline Hart Andrews, Northwestern State University's oldest known living graduate, celebrated her 105th birthday on Oct. 28, 2015. Andrews, a long-time resident of Tyler, Texas, graduated from Louisiana State Normal, as NSU was then known, in 1931 and was a classroom teacher for 43 years.

2008 NSU graduate and fellow Tyler resident Lane Luckie delivered to Andrews a bouquet of flowers from NSU, as well as a balloon bouquet from he and his colleagues, the morning news team at KLTV-Tyler. Andrews also received a special certificate from the State of Texas.

"I thoroughly enjoyed hearing the stories of her time at old Normal and how Natchitoches has earned a special fondness in her heart," Luckie said. "She told fun stories of sleeping on the porch of the girls dorm, the Christmas lights, women's dean Hereford not allowing female students to go to Front Street without special permission, as well as special lecturers brought to campus by President V.L. Roy. Her years as an educator were rewarding, due in large part to her education at Normal. While she did not have any children of her own, she said that she claims generations of 'children,' who are former students. Over the years, she said students would call her from landmarks around the world, describing their journeys and reminding her that they first learned of these magnificent destinations in her



Photo by Sarah Miller, for the Tyler Morning Telegraph

classroom. In fact, she received nearly a half dozen phone calls in the short time I was there, including some from former students, who are now in their 70s.

"Earline Andrews is a truly remarkable woman with a keen sense of humor. Hilarious, in fact. She wanted me to send her best wishes to all current students at Northwestern and thank all of you for helping make her birthday so special. Earline encourages everyone to find the positive in every situation and live each day to the fullest."

To read a December 2014 profile of Andrews, click here: <http://news.nsula.edu/home/hitch-your-wagon-to-a-star/>



Fallen Officer Thomas LaValley was honored by his alma mater Northwestern State University. Law enforcement officials from Caddo, Bossier and Natchitoches joined KTBS Shreveport in creating an NSU scholarship in LaValley's memory. In addition to the scholarship, NSU presented a posthumous Nth Degree to LaValley's family, a university honor that denotes meritorious service to mankind. From left are LaValley's brother and mother, Alex LaValley and Jackie LaBeau, NSU President and First Lady Dr. Jim and Tonia Henderson and Sherri Talley, KTBS anchor. They are surrounded by law enforcement officials from throughout northwest Louisiana.

NSU honors fallen police officer Thomas LaValley

Northwestern State University acknowledged the valor of fallen Shreveport Police Officer Thomas LaValley, a 2007 alumnus of the university, with the presentation of the Nth Degree to his family and the announcement of a scholarship established in his name. Members of the LaValley family were guests at NSU's home football game on Sept. 3, where they were recognized during pregame ceremonies.

In honor of the presentation, the Shreveport Police Department's Color Guard marched with NSU's ROTC cadets in posting the colors prior to the performance of the national anthem.

Law enforcement agencies, law enforcement associations and former colleagues of LaValley from throughout northwest Louisiana made contributions to establish the Officer Thomas LaValley Memorial Scholarship. Lead donors were the Shreveport Police Officers Association, Bossier City Police Union, Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator, Bossier Parish Sheriff Julian Whittington, Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones, the Natchitoches Police Department and the NSU Police Department. KTBS Channel 3 in Shreveport completed the \$10,000 en-

dowment to honor LaValley, a former employee. Sherri Talley, a KTBS anchor and NSU alumna represented the station at the presentation.

Captain Danny Dison, retired chief of the Bossier City Police Department and current director of security for Bossier Parish schools, did not know LaValley personally, but felt moved to honor his memory.

"It doesn't matter whether the officer is a friend or not. We all wear the same badge and are all in the same brotherhood and sisterhood."

—Dison

The scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in criminal justice from Caddo, Bossier and Ascension parishes with preference to the sons and daughters of fallen officers.

LaValley was also recognized with a posthumous Nth Degree, a Northwestern State University honor that denotes meritorious service to mankind. The Nth Degree is presented to those whose professional responsibilities in making the world a better place are

carried out to the Nth Degree. LaValley's was presented in recognition of his dedication to public safety and valor in the line of duty.

LaValley, 29, was killed August 5, 2015, while responding to a disturbance at a Shreveport residence. His alleged killer is facing first degree murder charges.

LaValley was born in Baton Rouge and graduated from St. Amant High School in 2003. At Northwestern State, he earned a degree in biology with a minor in journalism. Before becoming a police officer, LaValley worked as a videographer at KTBS. After graduating at the top of his class from the Shreveport Police Academy, he began working as an officer in 2011. LaValley was laid to rest in St. Amant after hundreds of supporters and officers from throughout Louisiana lined roadways as his remains made their way from Shreveport to Ascension Parish.

To contribute to the Officer Thomas LaValley Memorial Scholarship, visit northwesternalumni.com/lavalley or mail a check to the NSU Foundation, 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches LA 71497.

NSU, DeSoto Parish schools partner in DREAM ON initiative

Northwestern State University has partnered with DeSoto Parish schools to create a seamless pipeline for students going from high school to college. DeSoto Parish is launching the DREAM ON initiative in which students are assured university admission and scholarship dollars based on their high school grade point average and ACT scores.

Aside from university admission and pre-determined scholarship amounts, Northwestern State will also be awarding university academic credit for DeSoto students based on ACT scores as well as their performance in Advanced Placement (AP) courses or on CLEP tests. DeSoto has continued to show increases in ACT scores as a district and has included further improvements as a strategic goal for the current school year. In regards to Advanced Placement, DeSoto has been named as one of only 500 systems in North America to the Advanced Placement Honor Roll.

Many of the pathways offered in DeSoto Parish schools align with

award-winning programming at Northwestern State. Specifically, the DREAM ON partnership between DeSoto and Northwestern targets four college academic majors: computer information systems, engineering technology, education and nursing.

“Partnering with DeSoto Schools just makes sense. Northwestern naturally serves a large number of students from the parish and we’re finding that these students come to us with the academic and social preparation to be highly successful.”

— Dr. Jim Henderson, president of Northwestern State University

“Dr. Henderson and DeSoto Parish Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cade Brumley’s vision for the future success of the young people in this area is quite commendable,” said Jacques

Lasseigne, Regional Industry Coordinator with Louisiana Workforce Commission. “An excellent collaborative effort between high schools, a top-notch university and the business community. A new day is dawning in northwest Louisiana.”

Over the course of several months, leaders within the DeSoto System and Northwestern State planned together, mapping the components of this innovative idea. The initiative will lead to significant financial savings to parents and students taking advantage of the outlined programming. Administrators say the partnership will enrich the lives of those involved.

“The development of this initiative required paradigms to shift, barriers to be removed and for individuals to consider new and clever ways to approach the high-school to college pipeline,” Brumley said. “Our students, our counselors and our principals have been very responsive and appreciative of this proposal and the opportunities it affords the students they serve.”

Wise donation will support New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts

Northwestern State University President Dr. Jim Henderson announced a \$100,000 gift made to the NSU Foundation by General Erbon Wise and his wife Marie Wise, both 1941 graduates of the school.

In 1990, the Wises established the Erbon and Marie Wise Education Trust that grants each year multiple scholarships to area students interested in newspaper and media-related fields. Working through high schools, the trust in the past 15 years has recognized and aided many deserving students.

The Wises are now transferring the assets of the trust to the university’s Foundation who they feel can more ably administer the goals of the trust in the future.

Erbon Wise is a retired Major General of the U.S. Army who enjoyed a long journalist career in Louisiana. He holds a B.S. degree from Northwestern, a master’s degree from the Army’s Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and a honorary doctorate of human letters from Northwestern.

Marie Wise is recognized as an expert in genealogy. For



Gen. Erbon Wise is pictured with student media leaders Emily Fontenot, Jessie Gabor and Katelon Ramos.

many years she wrote a weekly genealogy column that appeared in many Louisiana newspapers.

In 2002, the Wises made a financial gift to the university that produced the first million dollar gift to the school. They later gifted the university ROTC building program.

Lasyone family memorial supports HMT, culinary arts students

The daughters of Jo Ann and James Lasyone of Natchitoches established two Northwestern State University scholarships to recognize their parents' contributions to tourism and culinary arts in northwest Louisiana. The Jo Ann Lasyone Tour and Travel Scholarship and the Chef James Lasyone Culinary Scholarship were initiated by Angela Lasyone and Tina Lasyone Smith.

The Jo Ann Lasyone Tour and Travel Scholarship will be presented to a senior level student majoring in hospitality with second preference given to a student majoring in culinary arts. The Chef James Lasyone Culinary Scholarship will be presented to a senior level student majoring in culinary arts with second preference given to a hospitality major. Applicants for both scholarships must be a Louisiana resident, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better and submit essays on their plans after graduation and why they chose the culinary or hospitality field.

Rayne Skelton of Many is the first recipient of the Chef James Lasyone Culinary Scholarship. She is a senior and hopes to own and operate a restaurant in the Toledo Bend area.

"Rayne is working to put herself through college and when I learned about the scholarship, she was the first person I thought of," said Connie Jones, head of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Jo Ann and James Lasyone are credited as the original trailblazers for the tourism industry in Natchitoches. Starting in 1967 with a used Garland stove at a small location on Second Street, their world-famous meatpies drew attention to Natchitoches through magazine and book articles, national and international newspapers features, radio and television highlights.

"When Mom and Dad started, Daddy handled the cooking and she handled the business side. They never told each



Rayne Skelton of Many is the first recipient of the Chef James Lasyone Culinary Scholarship presented to a Northwestern State University student in the hospitality management and tourism program. From left are HMT faculty Landon Amberg and Valerie Salter, Angela Lasyone, Skelton, Tina Lasyone and Connie Jones, head of NSU's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

other how to do their jobs and that's why it worked," Angela Lasyone said, adding that she and her sister have continued the example of teamwork set by their parents. She discussed the importance of praising people and giving them confidence in their work. "Dad had a fifth grade education, but he was a dreamer and mom was one to back up his dream."

The Lasyones have been longtime supporters of NSU and members of the NSU Founder's Circle since its inception.

"We support Northwestern because it brings people to us. As long as we are able to give back, we plan to. It's what Daddy and Mama would have wanted," Angela Lasyone said.

For information on the scholarships or to make contributions towards the scholarships, contact the NSU Foundation Office at (318) 357-4414.

Celebration of Life Scholarship aimed at helping single mothers



Charlotte and Bill Cross of Natchitoches initiated the Celebration of Life Scholarship to benefit single mothers who are seeking to obtain a college degree while caring for a young child. From left are Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Cross, NSU President and First Lady Dr. Jim and Tonia Henderson and Jill Bankston, associate director for development. The Celebration of Life Scholarship will be awarded to an expectant mother and/or mother of a child aged 12 months or younger. Single mothers will be given first preference. The recipient must be enrolled in a minimum of six hours per semester, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better and demonstrate financial need. The scholarship will be awarded to the student through graduation as long as criteria are met. Mr. and Mrs. Cross said the scholarship fills a need and they encourage others to support the endowment.

Beloved school nurse, one of NSU's first nursing grads, remembered

A scholarship that will be awarded to a Caddo Parish nursing student will honor the legacy of a dedicated school nurse who spent more than 40 years caring for the students and faculty of Caddo Parish. The Marcia T. Rozeman Endowed Scholarship in Nursing was established with an initial donation of \$50,000. Family and friends are encouraged to add to the scholarship in memory of Mrs. Rozeman, who passed away Feb. 14, 2015.

The scholarship will be presented to a nursing major enrolled in clinical studies. First preference will be given to graduates of Northwood (Shreveport) High School, followed by preference to any other high school in Caddo Parish.

Marcia Thompson Rozeman was born Sept. 20, 1932, and was brought up by her widowed mother who raised eight children through the Great Depression and World War II. Mrs. Rozeman graduated with honors from Longstreet High School and entered the first class enrolled in Northwestern State's School of Nursing. She was in its first graduating class in 1954.

After marrying and starting a family, she began a 40-year career as a nurse in the schools of north Caddo Parish before retiring at age 76. Her family described her as a warm and giving individual who addressed not only the physical, but also the mental and spiritual needs of those she cared for.

"I kept going back to the schools every year for forty years because I wanted to be the love and hope so



The family of Marcia Thompson Rozeman honored their mother's legacy by establishing a scholarship to benefit a clinical student at Northwestern State University. From left are Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation; Jill Bankston, associate director of development; Dr. Phillip Rozeman, Paul Rozeman, Sonya Smith, Dena Martindale, Dr. Dana Clawson, dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health; Maxine Johnson, director of grants, planning and development, and NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson.

many children sought from some adult," Mrs. Rozeman wrote. Her life was about instilling into her children and grandchildren, both biological and in her schools, a sense of integrity and respect for others, according to her family.

Mrs. Rozeman's daughter, Sonya Smith, said the ideal recipient would be a student with a financial need who is highly motivated towards service and caregiving.

Northwestern State's nursing program has been consistently recognized as one of the top in the nation. Last fall, NSU's online bachelor's program in nursing was ranked as the number top program in the country by NonProfit Colleges Online.

"She loved what she could do for people through nursing," Phillip Rozeman said. "She got to go to school because of a scholarship in nursing. The reach she had in those schools was phenomenal. Nursing is more than the health and physical being, its addressing mental needs and emotional needs. She had an amazing life and an amazing legacy. This scholarship will help students who want to be nurses and do what my mother did: Love other people and take care of other people."

To contribute to the Marcia T. Rozeman Endowed Scholarship in Nursing, visit northwesternalumni.com.

Hornbeck students will benefit from scholarship honoring Vernon Parish's 'First Lady'

An anonymous donor has made a contribution to the Northwestern State University Foundation to establish the Betty Howard Endowed Scholarship, in memory of Mrs. Howard, late wife of State Rep. Frankie Howard. The scholarship will benefit a graduate of Hornbeck High School who enrolls at Northwestern State.

Betty Cavanaugh Howard was a lifelong resident of Vernon Parish, growing up in Slagle, graduating from

Leesville High School and spending her married life in Hornbeck. As the wife of State Representative and former Vernon Parish Sheriff Frankie Howard, she was affectionately known as The First Lady of Vernon Parish. Betty Howard spent 33 years as a secretary at Hornbeck High School. Family members said she knew every child and was often called to act as the tooth fairy by pulling teeth. Even after retirement, she attended Hornets' basketball games whenever she could. She loved her family and her com-

munity and often times they were the same. She passed away July 2 after a battle with cancer.

"We are thankful to be able to honor the memory of Mrs. Betty through this scholarship, which will benefit the students she loved at Hornbeck High School," said Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation. "This is a generous way for Mrs. Betty's memory to live on by providing opportunities to fulfill their dream of earning a degree at Northwestern State."

Conine scholarship will defray costs for biological sciences students

A Northwestern State University student with plans to pursue a career in the medical field will benefit from a scholarship created in memory of L.C. and Trudy Conine. The endowed scholarship, created by the couple's daughter Connie Conine of Natchitoches, will be presented to an incoming freshman for four years through graduation as long as criteria are met. The scholarship will benefit a student majoring in science who maintains a 2.5 or better grade point average and demonstrates a financial need.

"Mother made sure I had a scholarship to attend Northwestern and I had a student job," Conine said. "I want to make sure someone else has the chance to go to school."

Three-fourths of Conine's initial donation will go towards an endowment and one quarter will go straight to a student.

"Ms. Conine established this scholarship in honor of family members that will go to a student in one of NSU's largest and most diverse programs, biological sciences," said Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation. "These funds will help with tuition, lab fees, textbooks and other costs associated with pursuing a degree in science."

Conine was a chemistry/zoology major at Northwest-

ern State and enjoyed a 40-year career as a medical technician in a hospital lab in Dallas. She said the ideal recipient is "someone who wants to work in the medical field, whether in nursing, medical technology, physical therapy, or anyone interested in studying the sciences."



Connie Conine, center, established a scholarship at Northwestern State University in memory of her parents. The L.C. and Trudy Conine Endowed Scholarship will benefit a student who intends to pursue a career in the medical field. From left are NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, Jill Bankston, associate director of development; Cliff Conine, Connie Conine and Frances Conine, Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation, and Dr. Steve Horton, vice provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Conine family has many ties to Northwestern. All four Conine siblings – Christi, Connie, Cliff and Curt -- attended Northwestern, though Cliff and Curt finished their degrees elsewhere. Christi married Mike Whittington, whose father taught math at NSU and whose mother worked in the library. Cliff married Frances Watkins Conine, Northwestern State's current dean of students. Conine described her parents as creating a loving family who believed

in education.

"It was always our parents intention that we go to college," Conine said. "Our parents made sure we got to go to school, even though neither of them went to college. I wanted to do this because our parents did right by us and I wanted to pay it forward."

To contribute to the scholarship, contact Jill Bankston, associate director of university advancement, at (318) 357-4241 or email bankstonj@nsula.edu.

Board of Realtors donation reinvests in Natchitoches Parish students

The Natchitoches Board of Realtors presented their annual contribution to the Northwestern State University Foundation to support scholarships for Natchitoches Parish students.

The Board of Realtors Scholarship funds a \$500 award presented to a male student and a female student at the sophomore level or above. The students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and demonstrate financial need. This year's donation will be matched with the presentation of the Hettie McMullen Fincher Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

"The Natchitoches Board of Realtors believes in giving back and supporting our local community and college."

—Jill Leo, association executive

"In recent years, the Board has specifically chosen to support the Industrial Engineering Scholarship Program keeping in mind it is highly likely the student could build a career locally in our area. We are honored to partner with NSU on this scholarship."



The N-Club Hall of Fame ceremonies at Homecoming honored nine key figures in NSU athletic history. Shown (l-r) are Lisa Brewer, women's basketball; Clarence Matthews, football; Holly Horn Broussard, soccer; Charles Bloodworth, basketball; Eric Lancelin, track and field; coach A.L. Williams, football; Willie Paz, tennis; Dustin Eubanks, NCAA compliance director; and Brad Laird, football. The athletes were inducted in the N-Club Hall of Fame while Williams received the N-Club's Distinguished Service Award for his impact as head coach and athletic director from 1975-82, and Eubanks became only the sixth non-athlete issued honorary N-Club membership in recognition of his service to the athletic program.

New N Club members enshrined during Homecoming celebration

The 2015 recipients of N-Club Hall of Fame honors from Northwestern State were so excited at the ceremony, the podium couldn't contain some of them.

None of the nine, along with some of their presenters, could control their emotions in front of about 250 family, friends, fans, and past and current NSU student-athletes, coaches and staff.

Poignant pauses in remarks, prepared and unscripted alike, reflected the impact of the event.

"I almost didn't cry," said Brenda Laird, smiling minutes after her son, record-setting quarterback Brad Laird, was enshrined to conclude the ceremony. She introduced him in lieu of his father Billy, a former Demon offensive coordinator who passed away in June, and only choked up near the end of her speech.

"As I look back at how much he sacrificed for me to have the opportunities I got, that led to this day, I graciously and humbly accept this on behalf of him, knowing he is excited," said Laird, who threw for 6,037 yards from 1991-95.

Laird, his former backfield mate Clarence Matthews, and NSU's veteran NCAA compliance director Dustin Eubanks abandoned the podium as they made their acceptance speeches.

"I guess I'm excited, but like Dustin, I'm barely tall enough to see over the podium," cracked Laird as he moved around the stage at the Magale Recital Hall.

Matthews' mobility was by necessity. After his daughter Mercedes, an NSU student, introduced him, he was joined by his three youngest daughters, including two preschoolers, and they were more captivated by the displays on stage than their father's remarks.

Laird and three-time All-America triple jumper Eric Lancelin blossomed into Hall of Famers against the odds. NSU was the only college to offer them athletic scholarships.

"I wore No. 10 at Ruston High, and at that time, Northwestern had just had a great little quarterback named Scott Stoker who wore No. 10," said Laird. "Considering my size, I don't think I'd have gotten a shot here, and I didn't have one anywhere else, if Scott hadn't done what he did."

"I wasn't sure I was going to go away to college, but my mother, she was like, 'pull on your Northwestern T-shirt, son,'" said Lancelin. "Thank you for believing in me and developing my talents."

There was no denying the talent of Lisa Brewer, a phenomenal scorer

for the DeRidder High girls basketball team in the mid-1970s. But there was a dearth of opportunity to continue playing in college until NSU became the first university in Louisiana to provide athletic scholarships for women in April 1975, and Brewer was the first prize recruit.

"Before she got here, we heard over and over how good she was," said Louise Bonin, an NSU teammate who coached basketball on the prep and college level for 33 years. "I'm so fortunate I had the opportunity to be on the floor with her. Lisa was a shining star in every game she played, high school, college and pro ball."

"Women's athletics has come so far, and I'm extremely proud to be part of its history. I was so fortunate to continue my basketball career here. Northwestern was progressive and groundbreaking when it came to women's athletics. My years here allowed me to grow athletically, socially and intellectually," said Brewer, who averaged 20.9 points per game in three seasons (1975-78) with the Lady Demons and played two years in the Women's Basketball League, a predecessor of the WNBA.

Charles Bloodworth, a Natchitoches native who led Central High School to a state championship, was praised by

continued on page 15



An ESPN 30 for 30 Short Film “Delaney” poster was presented to NSU officials before the Oct. 17 Homecoming football game. The poster was signed by the film’s director, Grant Curtis, and producer Jeremy Wheeler, and was presented on behalf of the film crew and Joe Delaney’s NSU teammates. The poster will be displayed in the Turpin Stadium press box. The film tells the story of Delaney, a two-time All American football player and a track star at NSU from 1977-1981 who played professionally for the Kansas City Chiefs. In 1983, Delaney, who could not swim, lost his life attempting to save three young children from drowning in a pond. Delaney’s NSU teammates are shown in the film during some NSU football game footage. Also in the film are one on one interviews with Delaney’s NSU coach A. L. Williams, teammates Van Kyzar and Jack Brittain Jr., along with Sports Information Director Doug Ireland. The film had its first full showing on ESPN2 Oct. 14 and can be viewed anytime online at www.grantland.com. From left are some of Delaney’s NSU teammates along with NSU representatives Jack Brittain, Mike Almond, Bruce Bickham, Jack Serpas, Gary Reasons, Mark Duper, NSU Athletic Director Greg Burke, Gary Morgan, Mike Maggiore, SID Doug Ireland, David Wright, David Causey, NSU first lady Tonia Henderson, Kenny Philibert, Coach A. L. Williams, NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, Bob McGraw, Van Kyzar, Ben Loper, Assistant Coach Herbie Smith, J. P. Dunbar and Rudy Hines.

N Club *continued from page 14*

his college coach, Tynes Hildebrand, for his life after basketball as much as for his achievements with the Demons as the first black hoopster at NSU from 1968-70.

“Charles was drafted in the NBA and the ABA, and went to the ABA. If he had not had the serious knee injury, I truly believe he would have developed into a star on the professional level. He became a star in his life after basketball and I’m proud to call him my friend,” said Hildebrand.

Holly Horn Broussard, a three-time All-Southland Conference selection who helped NSU to a pair of Southland Conference Tournament champion-

ships (1997, 2000), became the first Lady Demon soccer standout enshrined. Athletics director Greg Burke said Broussard was a versatile, selfless teammate whose leadership was impactful.

Conference tennis champion Willie Paz, who coached the Lady Demon netters from 1995-2006, had nearly all of his teammates from his 1973 squad in the audience and got a rollicking introduction by his coach, Johnnie Emmons.

Eubanks was presented an honorary letterman’s award, only the sixth of its kind ever issued by the N-Club, for his service. Basketball coach Mike McCo-

nathy made his presentation speech, praising Eubanks’ commitment to his alma mater and its student-athletes.

A.L. Williams, the Demons football coach from 1975-82, received the Distinguished Service Award after a touching introduction by former receiver Jack “Britt” Brittain Jr., who said “words like trustworthy, religious, southern gentleman, loyal, generous, humble, first-class, soft-spoken, forward-thinking, and a leader by example describe Coach Williams from the players’ perspective. All of his players loved him. Probably most important, we knew he loved us.”

Looking Back



The greatest moment in Northwestern State University athletic history was captured by Doug Daniels, a Peoria, Ill., photographer assigned the perfect spot on the baseline, as he was waiting for the next game in the NCAA Tournament at Auburn Hills, Mich., on Friday, March 17, 2006. It shows Demons' senior guard Jermaine Wallace launching the game-winning 3-pointer over University of Iowa star Adam Haluska with the score (Iowa 63, NSU 61) and time remaining (02.5 seconds) on the panel in the background. The 14th-ranked Demons defeated the third-ranked Big Ten Conference Champion Hawkeyes and vaulted NSU into the national spotlight – the lead story on ESPN's SportsCenter, top of the page headline news coast to coast, and spawned feature stories and coverage such as three-quarters of a page in the New York Times. Among those in the background: future NFL offensive lineman and NSU graduate Demetress Bell, who was a redshirt center for the 2005-06 Demons. Moments later, Bell was in a dogpile celebrating with Wallace and teammates at midcourt.

Planning to visit Natchitoches?

If you are planning a visit to campus, be sure to visit **natchitoches.com** to help plan your itinerary.

There are always activities, events, exhibits and attractions that appeal to visitors that take place year-round in Natchitoches and Cane River Country.



Guess Who



Guess Who

The 1966 Potpourri pictured the Judiciary Board of the Associated Women Students. The board served as a hearing group for any woman student who violated an important rule or regulation. The board was tasked with investigating non-observance of rules and assisting the individual in making satisfactory adjustment. Can you name the officers of the board?

If you know the answer, call the NSU Publications Office at (318) 357-4553 or e-mail jacksonl@nsula.edu.

Answers to Fall 2015 Guess Who were Dawn Coleman, Cindy Wilson and Nancy Manning, who bought raffle tickets from SAB Director Skeeter Henry prior to the 1989 State Fair Classic.

Guessing Correctly: Karen Guidroz (1989), Cut Off



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In Memory

1946, 1960 – Virginia Ruth Thomas Bevelle,
Nov. 1, 2015, Atlanta

1949 – Mary Jo G. O'Quin, October 14, 2015,
Alexandria

1955 – Brigadier General Curtis F. Hoglan,
Sept. 15, 2015, Niceville, Florida

1956 – Harry B. Moore, Sept. 17, 2015, Shreveport

1957 – Evelyn McMillan, Oct. 12, 2015, Lawrenceville,
Georgia

1957 – Clois Warner Witt, August 18, 2015, Thomson,
Georgia

1960 – Shirley Wiggins Elliott, Sept. 4, 2015,
Ringgold

1962 – Douglas Weldon Brewer, May 7, 2015, Irving,
Texas

1968, 1972 – Dr. Vera Roberson Bonnette, August 27,
2015, Natchitoches

1966 – Judy Dranguet Risty, Sept. 2, 2015,
Natchitoches

1965, 1966 – Dr. Randall J. Webb, Nov. 18, 2015,
Shreveport

1973 – Elizabeth Williams Swafford,
May 8, 2015, Natchitoches

1975 – Emma Bernard Pitcher, August 22, 2015,
Natchitoches

1979 – Deborah Nichols, Oct. 5, 2015, Many

1980 – Sharon Spencer Cummings,
July 14, 2015, Lake Charles

2014 – Joshua Trey Pilkington, Sept. 28, 2015, Many

Claude Rodney Cruise, Jan. 7, 2015, Monroe



View video at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewiM6DARgEw>

Students at Northwestern State University held a candlelight vigil Nov. 19 at the historic columns on Normal Hill to honor the life of former President Dr. Randall J. Webb, who died Nov. 18, 2015. During the vigil, students laid a wreath at the foot of the central column and sang the alma mater as the columns were darkened in Webb's memory. Webb was NSU's president for more than 18 years, the longest tenure of any chief executive in the institution's 131-year history. Funeral services were held in Prather Coliseum on Nov. 23.